

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143177

EXDIS

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TAGS: SCUL, PERP, PINT, HU

SUBJECT:VISIT OF JANOS BEREZCZ

REF: STATE 194863

1. SUMMARY: IN THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE BEREZCZ VISIT IS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD. BEREZCZ HIMSELF ACKNOWLEDGED THIS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF THE OUT-OF-WASHINGTON ARRANGEMENTS. IN NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO, DETROIT AND ATLANTA HE CONTINUED TO SPEAK CANDIDLY AND FREELY ON A WIDE VARIETY OF ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. BEREZCZ ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS VISIT. DURING THE LATTER STAGE OF HIS TRIP BEREZCZ WAS FOND OF RECALLING THE COMMENT FROM A WASHINGTON POST STAFFER THAT THE FACT OF HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT HAD CAUSED CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE HERE. HIS REPLY HAD BEEN THAT THE INVITATION HAD GENERATED SURPRISE IN BUDAPEST AS WELL. AT THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HE MET A SECRE-ARY HE HAD KNOWN IN BUDAPEST. TWO YEARS AGO WHEN SHE WAS POSTED TO WASHINGTON SHE TOLD HIM SHE HOPED SHE'D SEE HIM IN WASHINGTON AND HE HAD CONSIDERED SUCH A POSSI-BILITY UNTHINKABLE. ANSWERING A QUESTION AT THE GEORGETOWN

CENTER AS TO WHETHER HE WAS THE TRADEOFF FOR THE CROWN,

BERECZ STATED THAT THE RETURN OF THE CROWN AND THE TRADE AGREEMENT WERE EVENTS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT OUR INVITATION TO HIM AND HIS ACCEPTANCE WERE, INDEED, SIGNIFICANT.

3. PRIORITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.
BERECZ TOLD ESCORT OFFICER GERTH THAT HUNGARY'S PRIORITIES IN US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS ARE:

- A) A VISIT BY KADAR IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1979;
- B) EXPANSION OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONTACTS AND COOPERATION;
- C) EXPANSION OF TRADE AND JOINT VENTURES FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT.

4. IN THIS CONVERSATION BERECZ LEFT NO DOUBT THAT, IN HIS MIND, THE NEXT SENIOR HSWP OFFICIAL TO VISIT THE US MUST BE KADAR. HE INDICATED THAT AN EARLY VISIT BY KADAR IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY AND THE LATE SUMMER OR FALL OF 1979 WAS THE DESIRED TIMING. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT CEAUSESCU WAS RECEIVED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN WASHINGTON DESPITE "THE REPRESSIVE AND DICTATORIAL CHARACTER" OF HIS RULE. BERECZ SAID THAT IF THE UNITED STATES TRULY WISHES TO CONTINUE TO BUILD RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY, THEN IT SHOULD
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EXTEND THE COURTESY OF AN INVITATION TO HUNGARY'S LEADING POLITICAL FIGURE, WHOSE ROLE WITHIN HUNGARY IS OF A VERY DIFFERENT AND DECIDEDLY MORE POSITIVE NATURE.

5. MEETING AT UAW. THE MEETING WITH UAW PRESIDENT FRASER FOCUSED ON A DISCUSSION OF HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC REFORMS; TRADE UNION TOPICS WERE NOT DISCUSSED. BERECZ EXTENDED AN INVITATION FROM GASPARI (WITH WHOM HE HAD MET IN PREPARATION FOR THIS SESSION) AND FRASER ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE FOR 1980 (NEXT YEAR WAS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF MAJOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS). FRASER SPOKE IN VERY POSITIVE TERMS ABOUT HIS 1968 VISIT TO BUDAPEST.

6. THE VISIT OF MARTIN LUTHER KING SR/DR. HARASZTI.
IN ATLANTA BERECZ TOGETHER WITH DR. HARASZTI MET WITH CHRISTINE KING FERRIS, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HER FATHER TO BUDAPEST LATER THIS MONTH. BERECZ EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HE COULD MEET DR. KING AND MRS. FERRIS IN BUDAPEST.

7. DR. HARASZTI HOSTED A LARGE RECEPTION FOR BERECZ. GUESTS INCLUDED REP. FLYNT, STATE OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE HUNGARIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA.

PRIOR TO THE RECEPTION BEREZCZ HAD AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION WITH WALTER SMYTH OF THE BILLY GRAHAM ASSOCIATION AND VIEWED THE GRAHAM TELECAST ON HUNGARY. BEREZCZ' TALK ON HUNGARY AND LENGTHY QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY THE LARGELY HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN AUDIENCE. ONLY ONE GUEST (SELF-INVITED) PUT HOSTILE QUESTIONS.

8. MEMCONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY. VANCE

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